



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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January 7, 1994

Mr. Dean Fowler, Project Manager  
Spokane County Public Utilities  
West 1026 Broadway  
Spokane, WA 99260

Dear Mr. Fowler:

RE: Colbert Landfill - Future Discharge to Little Spokane  
River/Baseline Monitoring Data and Contingency  
Plan/Public Meeting

Regarding Spokane County's future discharge to the Little Spokane River, and the accompanying issue of phosphorus loading, it is my understanding that the County has implemented the baseline sampling plan required by Bonnie Rose. Please forward the sampling results to Ali Raad, who has replaced Bonnie Rose as Ecology's NPDES specialist for the Colbert Project. Mr. Raad's address is identical to that of Ms. Rose.

Mr. Raad and I would like to meet with you and the County's technical support in late January to develop a contingency plan for mitigating any phosphorus effects to the Little Spokane River as a result of the discharge. We propose a January 27th meeting in Spokane.

Although data suggests the probability is low for phosphorus loading from the County's discharge, the possibility of an algae bloom in the river and/or grim consequences down-river due to phosphorus loading cannot be dismissed until sometime after discharge has taken place. The potential for grim consequences is made poignant in the absence of a contingency plan to deal with phosphorus loadings. The resulting situation has raised concern in communities down-river from the Colbert discharge.

As a result of community concern and the County's schedule to begin discharge in the spring of 1994, Ecology is tentatively scheduling a public meeting for February 24, 1994 in Spokane. We will finalize the meeting date upon concurrence from the County.

To address the dual circumstances of a scheduled discharge, and community concern over negative impact of discharge it is prudent and consistent with the substantive requirements of NPDES that the County develop a contingency plan for discharge (i.e.,

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mitigation of phosphorus loading). The contingency plan would be on the agenda for the public meeting.

At our project meeting in January, Mr. Raad and I are hopeful that Ecology and the County will formulate the contingency plan, resolve any outstanding water quality issues, and finalize the Fact Sheet for the (February) public meeting.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Ali Raad at (206) 407-7181 or me at (206) 407-7239.

Sincerely,



Michael Kuntz  
Toxics Cleanup Program

MK:ln

cc: Neil Thompson, EPA  
Ali Raad, Ecology